

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) At a learning management system (LMS) controlled by an organization, A—a method of enabling an the organization to control user assignments and assessment results while enabling a proprietary provider to maintain control over distribution of proprietary content through an electronic network and over use of a proprietary assessment function, comprising the steps of:

(a) enabling the organization to provide an assignment to a user through a browser in communication with a learning management system (LMS) controlled by the organization, the assignment requiring the user to interact with the proprietary content through the browser receiving user authentication information for a user from web browser;

(b) accessing a database to determine which assignments are available to the user based on the user authentication information, the assignments accessible from and controlled by the proprietary provider through the web browser;

(c) providing the web browser with a link to the LMS, the link indicating access to the proprietary content assignments determined to be available to the user that is controlled by the proprietary provider;

(e) (d) upon activation of the link in the browser by the user, communicating receiving a request for the proprietary content assignments determined to be available to the user to the LMS;

(d) (e) accessing generating a proprietary content uniform resource locator (URL) identifying a location of the proprietary content at a proprietary network node controlled by the proprietary provider in response to receiving the request;

(e) (f) causing the LMS to provide generating a message for transmission back to the browser, the message including hidden data and the proprietary content URL, the message configured to cause causing the browser to automatically request the proprietary content from the proprietary provider network node at the proprietary content URL without indicating to the user that the proprietary content was requested from the proprietary provider, the hidden data comprising at least one of information about the organization, the user that activated the link, the

assignment, and the proprietary provider, the hidden data being used to control distribution of the proprietary content to the browser and the user's interaction with the proprietary content in completing the assignment; and

~~(f) (g) transmitting the generated proprietary content URL and the generated message to the browser causing the proprietary provider to return the proprietary content to the browser so that the user can interact with the proprietary content.~~

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the proprietary content comprises at least one of text data, graphics data, audio data, and learning assessment data.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the request for the proprietary content and the message each comprise a hidden hypertext markup language data form.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein at least one of:

(a) the request includes the proprietary content URL; and

(b) the message includes a results receiver URL identifying a location to which the proprietary provider is to send the assessment results indicating the user's interaction with the proprietary content.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing to the browser a quit link to the LMS, wherein the quit link comprises an early termination URL identifying a location of the LMS to which the browser is redirected by the proprietary provider ~~network node~~ if the user chooses to return to interacting with the LMS without submitting any information to the proprietary provider ~~network node~~.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising the step of providing to the browser a submit link to the proprietary assessment function controlled by the proprietary provider, wherein the submit link comprises a results receiver URL identifying a location of a results receiver that is controlled by the organization and that is to receive the assessment results generated by the proprietary assessment function as a result of the user's interaction with the proprietary content.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the steps of:

(a) upon activation of the submit link, communicating a results request for the assessment results from the browser to the proprietary assessment function, the results request including the results receiver URL; and

(b) causing the proprietary assessment function to generate the assessment results and to provide a result message back to the browser, the result message including the assessment results and the results receiver URL, and the result message causing the browser to automatically communicate the assessment results to the results receiver at the results receiver URL.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

(a) causing the proprietary results provider to at least one of:

(i) digitally sign the assessment results prior to causing the proprietary assessment function to provide the result message back to the browser; and

(ii) encrypt the assessment results prior to causing the proprietary assessment function to provide the result message back to the browser; and

(b) causing the results receiver to authenticate the digitally signed assessment results.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 7, wherein the assessment results comprise at least one of an indication that the user interacted with the proprietary content and an evaluation of the user's performance in interacting with the proprietary content.

10. (Original) A memory medium on which are stored machine instructions for carrying out the steps of Claim 1.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A system for enabling an organization to control user assignments and assessment results while enabling a proprietary provider to maintain control over distribution of proprietary content through an electronic network and over use of a proprietary assessment function, wherein a user has coupled in communication with the system to obtain an assignment, comprising:

(a) a processor;

(b) a network interface in communication with the processor and the electronic network; and

(c) a memory in communication with the processor, the memory storing machine instructions that cause the processor to carry out a plurality of functions, including:

~~(i) in response to a user selecting an assignment, communicating an assignment web page that includes assignment information to a browser of a user, the assignment information being associated with a link to the proprietary content that is disposed at a remote location~~ receiving user authentication information for a user from web browser;

~~(ii) in response to a user selection in the assignment web page, transmitting an instruction to redirect the browser to an address where the proprietary content is accessible at a proprietary network node~~ accessing a database to determine which assignments are available to the user based on the user authentication information, the assignments accessible from and controlled by the proprietary provider through the web browser; and

~~(iii) receiving a message from the browser, said message including proprietary data indicating results of a user interacting with the proprietary content, the results being one of hidden from a user and not hidden from a user~~ providing the web browser with a link to the LMS, the link indicating access to the assignments determined to be available to the user;

~~(iv) receiving a request for the assignments determined to be available to the user;~~

~~(v) generating a proprietary content uniform resource locator (URL) identifying a location of proprietary content controlled by the proprietary provider in response to receiving the request;~~

~~(vi) generating a message for transmission to the browser, the message including hidden data and the proprietary content URL, the message configured to cause the~~

browser to automatically request the proprietary content from the proprietary provider at the proprietary content URL without indicating to the user that the proprietary content was requested from the proprietary provider, the hidden data comprising at least one of information about the organization, the user that activated the link, the assignment, and the proprietary provider, the hidden data being used to control distribution of the proprietary content to the browser and the user's interaction with the proprietary content in completing the assignment; and

(vii) transmitting the generated proprietary content URL and the generated message to the browser.

13. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the proprietary content comprises at least one of text data, graphics data, audio data, and learning assessment data.

14. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the instruction to redirect the browser and the message from the browser each comprise a hypertext markup language data form.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to carry out the function of providing to the browser a submit link, wherein the submit link comprises a results receiver URL identifying a location of a results receiver module of the machine instructions that receives the message from the browser, the message including the proprietary data.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the machine instructions further cause the processor to carry out at least one of the functions of:

(a) validating a digital signature applied by the proprietary provider to the proprietary data of the message received from the browser; and

(b) decrypting the message received from the browser.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 12, wherein the proprietary data comprise at least one of an indication that the user interacted with the proprietary content and an evaluation of the user's performance in interacting with the proprietary content.

18. (Currently Amended) At a learning management system (LMS) controlled by an organization, A—a method for controlling distribution of proprietary data through an electronic network and controlling use of a proprietary function that assesses a user's interaction with the proprietary data, comprising the steps of:

(a) receiving user authentication information for a user from web browser;

(b) accessing a database to determine which assignments are available to the user based on the user authentication information, the assignments accessible from and controlled by the proprietary provider through the web browser;

(a) providing a proprietary data uniform resource locator (URL) to a user management system that interfaces with a user over the electronic network through ~~a—the web browser;~~

(b) receiving a request from the user via the web browser for access to the proprietary data as a result of the user having actuated the proprietary data URL, ~~wherein the request was initiated by the user management system and redirected through the browser to the proprietary data URL;~~

(c) communicating the proprietary data URL to the browser along with information indicating to the web browser that the browser is to redirect the proprietary data request to the proprietary data URL to the proprietary provider;

(d) receiving from the browser an indication of the user's interaction with the proprietary data through the browser; and

(e) performing the proprietary function based on the indication of the user's interaction with the proprietary data to assess the user's interaction with the proprietary data.

19. (Original) The method of Claim 18, wherein the indication of the user's interaction with the proprietary data comprises responses to tasks presented to the user in the proprietary data.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 18, further comprising the steps of:

(a) producing results data based on the performance of the proprietary function;

and

(b) communicating the results data to the browser with an instruction to the browser to redirect the results data to the user management system.

21. (New) At a computer system including a web browser, a method of enabling an organization to control user assignments and assessment results while enabling a proprietary provider to maintain control over distribution of proprietary content through an electronic network and over use of a proprietary assessment function, comprising the steps of:

(a) transmitting user authentication information to a learning management system (LMS) controlled by an organization;

(b) receiving a link to proprietary content associated with the user and a message including hidden data, the hidden data comprising at least one of information about the organization, the user that activated the link, the assignment, and the proprietary provider;

(c) automatically transmitting a request for the proprietary content to the proprietary provider using the received link to the proprietary content along with the hidden data without indicating to the user that the proprietary content was requested from the proprietary provider such that it appears to the user that the proprietary content was requested from the LMS, the hidden data being usable to determine which assignments and other proprietary information are accessible to the user; and

(d) receiving the proprietary content at the browser so that the user can interact with the proprietary content.